

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14831 01 OF 02 121733Z

50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 088840

R 121716Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8004

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRANDT/WEHNER DISPUTE BUBBLES ON

REF: A) BONN 14623; B) BONN 14440

1. SUMMARY: THE STRAIN BETWEEN SPD LEADERS BRANDT AND WEHNER CONTINUES, WITH WEHNER CONTINUING TO PICK UP HIGH-LEVEL PARTY SUPPORT FOR HIS WISH TO HAVE THE LEADERSHIP PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN FRG FOREIGN AND, BY IMPLICATION, DOMESTIC POLICY. AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WILL TAKE PLACE IN HAMBURG THIS WEEK END, AND WE EXPECT SOME PAPERING-OVER OF THE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES TO OCCUR. A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO HAS TALKED SEPARATELY WITH BRANDT AND WEHNER HAS DESCRIBED TO US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14831 01 OF 02 121733Z

THE FEELINGS OF THE TWO PROTAGONISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BRANDT/WEHNER DISPUTE CONTINUES TO BUBBLE ALONG, NOT LEAST BECAUSE WEHNER IS CONTINUING TO SPEAK UP AND IS OBTAINING SUPPORT FROM THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE SPD. THE OPPOSITION IS ALSO CONTINUING ITS ATTACKS ON WEHNER'S ALLEGED UNDERMINING OF THE FRG POSITION IN THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

3. WHILE IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WEHNER AFFAIR THAT WEHNER'S DISSATISFACTION WITH BRANDT WAS WIDELY SHARED IN THE PARTY, THE BREADTH OF IT WAS UNDERESTIMATED, NO DOUBT EVEN BY THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF. DURING A MEETING OF THE SPD'S FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE WEEK END OF OCTOBER 6, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY IN RHINELAND-PALATINATE, DROESCHER, MOVED THAT WEHNER'S POSITION EXPRESSED IN MOSCOW BE "ACKNOWLEDGED" BY A VOTE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. BRANDT SAID THAT SUCH A VOTE WAS UNNECESSARY AND SOUGHT WITHOUT SUCCESS TO HAVE DROESCHER WITHDRAW HIS MOTION. THE MOTION WAS PUT TO A VOTE AND CARRIED TWELVE TO ELEVEN WITH WEHNER HIMSELF ABSTAINING.

4. IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT AT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN WEHNER AND BRANDT, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE SPD PLUS OTHER SPD LEADERS WILL MEET IN HAMBURG THE WEEK END OF OCTOBER 13 TOGETHER WITH FONMIN SCHEEL, HIS STATE SECRETARY FRANK, AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO EGON BAHR TO DISCUSS THE "AREAS OF COMPETENCE" IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY.

5. TO OBTAIN SOME CLARIFICATION OF BRANDT AND WEHNER'S THINKING, EMBOFF TALKEO WITH RELIABLE SOURCE WHO HIMSELF HAD SPOKEN PRIVATELY WITH THE TWO MEN IN THE PAST WEEK. OUR CONTACT SAID WEHNER CONSIDERS THAT HIS REMARKS ON HIS MOSCOW TRIP WERE OVERPLAYED IN THE FRG BUT NONETHELESS IS UNWILLING TO BACK DOWN FOR HE FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE SPD LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO HAVE MUCH MORE OF A VOICE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD, ESPECIALLY IN OSTPOLITIK, AS WELL AS IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 14831 01 OF 02 121733Z

6. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WEHNER IS CONCERNED THAT OSTPOLITIK, WHICH TOOK SO MUCH WORK TO INITIATE AND BRING TO FRUITION, IS STILL FAIRLY FRAGILE. A HEAVY-HANDED LEGALISTIC APPROACH IS EXACTLY WHAT IS NOT NEEDED AT THIS POINT, THEREFORE. THIS IS THE TIME, IN WEHNER'S VIEW, TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND EES SO AS TO ALLOW FOR A DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE TO BE BUILT UP ON BOTH SIDES. WEHNER ALSO CONSIDERS IT UNWISE FOR THE

FRG TO QUIBBLE ABOUT WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE DETAILS IN THE BERLIN AGREEMENT AND THEREBY TO PUT THE GREAT POSITIVE VALUE OF THE AGREEMENT IN QUESTION. IN SUM, WEHNER WANTS THE SPD TO TAKE OVER THE LARGE POLITICAL CONTROL OF FOREIGN AND EASTERN POLICY ONCE AGAIN AND NOT LEAVE IT IN THE HANDS OF THE FONOFF AND FDP. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY THINKS THAT THE SPD SHOULD BE TAKING A MORE AGGRESSIVE STAND VIS-A-VIS THE FDP ON DOMESTIC MATTERS AS WELL.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 14831 02 OF 02 121733Z

50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 088844

R 121716Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8005

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14831

7. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT WEHNER IS AWARE THAT HIS CRITICISM OF BRANDT'S LEADERSHIP STYLE HAS STUNG THE CHANCELLOR. WEHNER THINKS HE IS IN THE RIGHT, HOWEVER,

AND OBVIOUSLY HAS THE BACKING OF MOST OF THE TOP SPD LEADERSHIP. OUR SOURCE SAID WEHNER IS STILL INTENT ON RETAINING HIS POSITION IN THE PARTY AND WILL NOT PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE DUMPED, NOR DOES WEHNER BELIEVE THAT BRANDT WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A STEP.

8. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT BRANDT IS ANGRY OVER WEHNER'S OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM, NOT LEAST BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST TIME WEHNER HAS EXPRESSED HIS LONG-HELD FEELINGS SO PUBLICLY. BRANDT HOPES THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR WILL BLOW OVER QUICKLY AND, TO THAT END, HAS AVOIDED ANY PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 14831 02 OF 02 121733Z

STATEMENTS OF HIS OWN CRITICIZING WEHNER.

9. COMMENT: THE HAMBURG MEETING THIS WEEK END WILL PROBABLY SUCCEED IN SMOOTHING THINGS OVER AND IN PRODUCING SOME APPEARANCE OF HARMONY BETWEEN BRANDT AND WEHNER AND BETWEEN THE SPD AND FDP. THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS STRONG RIGHT ARM (WEHNER) WILL MAKE UP AND THE FDP WILL BE MORE OR LESS PLACATED. BUT MORE DEEP-ROOTED DIFFERENCES WILL REMAIN AND WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT ON ALL CONCERNED AS THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTIONS APPROACH. HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN14831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HILLENBRAND
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731036/aaaabang.tel
Line Count: 197
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BONN 14623; B) BONN 14440
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRANDT/WEHNER DISPUTE BUBBLES ON
TAGS: PFOR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005